

Appln. No. 10/023,071
Amdt. dated April 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated March 9, 2005

R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The March 9, 2005 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 and 20 are cancelled, claims 1, 4-6 and 17 are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to point out patentable features of the present claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 is amended to include limitations from claims 2, 3 and 10, claims 4 and 6 are amended to change their dependency from "2" to --1--, and claims 5 and 17 are essentially rewritten in independent form. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

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REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103(a)

In the Office Action claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the publication entitled "Language Identification With Embedded Word Models" (Ramesh et al.).

In response, claim 1 is amended to include limitations from claims 2, 3 and 10. Claim 1 is now directed to a method for enabling a user to interact with an electronic device using speech. The electronic device is capable of interacting with the user in multiple languages. In the method, a set of activation commands is defined to include various commands which relate to the electronic device being controlled. The set of activation commands includes one or more commands for each language supported by the device (see page 7, lines 1-11 of the present application) so that recognition of a command in the user's speech can be used to both activate and control the electronic device, and upon determining the language of the recognized command, set a language attribute of the electronic device.

Claim 1 also recites that in addition to the set of activation commands, a plurality of additional sets of voice commands for activating or controlling the electronic device are provided, each in one of the languages supported by the electronic device. Recognition of one of the additional sets of

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voice commands in speech input is enabled in response to the recognition of an activation command. That is, once the language of the activation command is recognized and the language attribute is set, recognition of a single additional set of control commands in that language is enabled by selecting for use the additional set of voice commands which are in the language associated with the language attribute (see the present application at page 8, lines 1-15).

Thus, while a set of activation commands are formed, including activation commands in several languages, once the language being spoken by the person who desires to use the electronic device is determined, i.e., by analyzing the person's speech to see whether it contains any of the activation commands, a larger set of commands in a single language is provided to the speech recognizer to enable recognition of these commands for use in activating or controlling the electronic device. The single language (of the additional set of control commands for which speech recognition is enabled) is the language being spoken by the person.

Claim 5 is directed to a method wherein at least one of the activation commands is a personalized name in each of the plurality of different languages (as described in the present application at page 7, lines 17-27). Thus, an individual can

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merely say their name and the language attribute will be set based thereon.

Claim 17 includes features similar to those set forth in claim 1 relating to the presence of a set of (control) commands, and specifically recites that after the language attribute of the electronic device is set, additional speech input is received from the user, at least one voice command in the speech input is recognized and a determination is made whether the recognized voice command is in a set of control commands which is larger than the set of activation commands. If so, the operation of the electronic device is adjusted in accordance with the recognized voice command.

Ramesh et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest a method including all of the limitations recited in claims 1, 5 and 17.

Ramesh et al. disclose a language identification system in which a subset of commonly used words for a particular situation in different languages is defined and speech input is compared to the subset of words. An identification of the language being spoken is obtained based on the speech input.

In contrast to the present claimed invention, Ramesh et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest enabling recognition of an additional set of commands in the language identified as being spoken after the language of an activation command is determined.

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Although Ramesh et al. are silent as to what happens once the language being spoken is determined, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to provide audio feedback, especially in the described example of a telephone assistance system. However, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to enable recognition of another set of commands, only in a single language, once the language of an activation command is determined.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Ramesh et al. directed to this feature. The Examiner points to page 1887, upper right, to show that Ramesh et al. creates a restricted-domain subset of language from languages which are to be recognized. This subset is limited to possible words used in the topic for which language recognition is being applied. Once the language is recognized, there is no modification of the speech recognition to enable recognition of more words than in the subset, i.e., to enable recognition of words in the spoken language but not in the subset.

Since Ramesh et al. intentionally limit the subset to specific words in each language, the reference cannot disclose, teach or suggest use of an additional set of commands in a single language to be used for speech recognition once the language is identified.

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With respect to claim 5, Ramesh et al. do not disclose providing at least one activation command as a personalized name in each of the plurality of languages. The Examiner considers the keywords in Ramesh et al. to be comparable to the activation commands in the claimed embodiments. In order for the Ramesh et al. system to be operative, the keywords must mean certain things relating to the topic, such as "operator", "help" or "call" in the described example (see page 1887, left side, last six lines). The system of Ramesh et al. does not recognize words other than those which mean certain things and which relate to the topic. Hence, Ramesh et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest recognizing as a keyword a personalized name in each of a plurality of different languages, which has no meaning and does not relate to the topic.

With respect to claim 17, Ramesh et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest determining whether a recognized voice command is in a set of control commands which is larger than the set of activation commands and if so, adjusting the operation of the electronic device in accordance with the recognized voice command. As noted above, Ramesh et al. create a restricted domain subset of words to be used for language identification and once the language is identified, the reference does not teach enlarging the subset to enable recognition of additional words

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not contained therein.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 5 and 17 are patentable over Ramesh et al. under 35 USC §103(a).

The other references of record do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 1, 5 and 17 and Ramesh et al. Therefore, claims 1, 5 and 17 are patentable over all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 4, 6, 8, 11-16, 18 and 19 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are patentable over the references of record in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references of record do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 4, 6, 8, 11-16, 18 and 19.

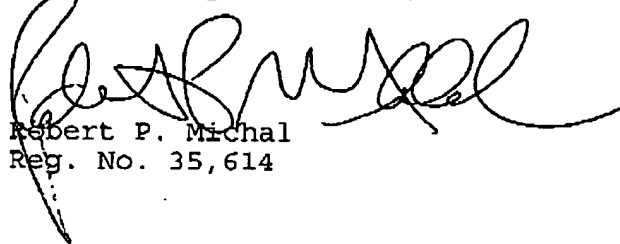
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Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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